

Harborough District Council Initial Equality Impact Assessment

Section/Department	Community Services	Persons undertaking the assessment (please also state name of contact officer)	Kate Daisley
Name of policy or function to be assessed	Play Strategy	Date of assessment	20th June 2007 New or existing policy New
1. Briefly describe the aims, objective or purpose of the policy, or service function.	<p>It is Harborough District Councils first five year Play Strategy which covers 2007-2012. Play is of fundamental importance for children and young people's health and well-being, their relationships, development and learning. The UN convention on the rights of a child gives all children the right to rest and leisure; to engage in the appropriate play and recreational activities.</p> <p>In 2006 the Big Lottery Fund launched the £155 million Children's Play initiative based on the recommendations of the 2004 play review Getting Serious About Play. Harborough District Council have been provisionally allocated £200,000 for improving play within the District, but with the condition that a Play Strategy and associated action plan is in place, and has been adopted by the local authority.</p>		
2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy/function?	<p>The objectives of the Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise the profile of play To ensure that all children and young people, regardless of their ability, have equal access and inclusive approach and opportunities for play To ensure that decision-makers plan and resource play to support the outcomes of the five year Play Strategy To work in partnership to improve play provision To commit to developing a wider child-friendly environment, which will increase children's opportunities for play whenever, and wherever they choose To identify opportunities that contribute to the overall vision of a child-friendly district <p>The Play Strategy is closely linked with the five outcomes of Every Child Matters which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being healthy Staying safe Enjoying and achieving Making a positive contribution Achieving economic well-being 		
3. Who is intended to benefit from this policy and in what way?	<p>All children and young people throughout Harborough District, by having the barriers of play removed so that play provision is inclusive of all children and young people.</p> <p>Parents and carers will also benefit by having improved and accessible play facilities local to the home, and in</p>		

	<p>terms of extended services which the Strategy will link into, specialist services will be signposted with ease and accessible to all who need them.</p> <p>The whole community will also benefit by having good quality play provisions which will ensure that the children and young people of the district do not suffer from play deprivation. Play deprivation can lead to children being miserable, anti-social, obese and aggressive. At its most malign, play deprivation can render children violent.</p>		
4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy/function and for whom?	<p>To remove barriers which disallow children and young people to play freely within their community and peers, and to ensure provision is of good quality and can be accessible for all. The work of the Play Rangers will be the main focus for this work. They will identify and target hard to reach and vulnerable groups who may have specify barriers for unstructured play. However, another priority for their role will be to identify local needs with key partners with the objective to improve local play provision. All services and facilities including and new ones will be assessed for equality purposes.</p> <p>To work in partnership to ensure play provision is provided in line with our target of 0.3 hectares per 1000 population.</p> <p>To ensure children and young people are consulted and play an active role in the design and location of play provision.</p>		
5. How do these outcomes meet or hinder other policies, values, or objectives of HDC?	<p>The outcomes meet the following policies and objectives:</p> <p>LAA Children and young people ASB Strategy Parks and Open Spaces Plan Community Safety Strategy Leicestershire's Children and young peoples plan 2006 – 2009 Every Child Matters Hear By Right</p>		
6. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the intended outcomes?	<p>Identifying and engaging with hard to reach groups To engage and work in partnership with all necessary partners for the delivery of the Strategy.</p>		
7. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to this policy?	Harborough District Council Children and Young People Parish Councils	8. Who implements the policy/function and is responsible for the policy?	Harborough District Council Community Services Children's Services Manager
9. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact on racial groups?	Y	N	No
• What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have	Part of the work of the Play Rangers will help develop work with racial groups		

for this?			within the district. Also, to help identify and overcome the barriers of play which there may be for the children and family of racial groups to access play facilities.
10. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to gender?	Y	N	No
• What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			The play rangers and the type of play equipment purchased will ensure that play facilities are equally accessible and used by both genders, and that one gender will not dominate services and/or facilities.
11. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to disability?	Y	N	No
• What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			The Strategy will only improve access to mainstream play facilities for disabled children, young people and carers/parents.
12. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to sexual orientation?	Y	N	No
• What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
13. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to age?	Y	N	No
• What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			The aim of the Strategy is to ensure that there are good quality play facilities for all ages of children and young people. The Strategy acknowledges that in some play areas, the lack of relevant and age defined equipment, excludes some age groups, and this is being addressed by the Strategy.
14. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to religious belief?	Y	N	No
• What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			Work with the Play Rangers will aid the inclusion of individuals or groups who have different religious groups.
15. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could	Y	N	No

have a differential impact due to people having dependants/caring responsibilities?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? 	The Play Strategy aims to improve unstructured play within the district, which is free to choose, free to come and go and free of charge. This is to ensure that services can be accessed at any time.		
16. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to people having an offending past?	Y	N	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? 	By working in partnership with the CDRP, the police and Youth Offending Service, play provision will be accessible to all children and young people. However, with regards to HDC Child Protection Policy, workers will have to be CRB checked and this may exclude some adults or young adults delivering the Strategy.		
17. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a differential impact due to people being transgendered or transsexual?	Y	N	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? 	All play provision and services will be accessible to all.		
18. Could any differential impact identified in 10-19 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy?	Y	N	No
19. Can any adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one or more groups or any other reason?	Y	N	No
20. Should the policy proceed to a partial impact assessment?	Y	N	No
21. Should the policy proceed to a full impact assessment?	Y	N	No

22. If no, are there any recommended changes required to the policy to improve it around the equality agenda?			
Additional notes/guidance (Policy Officer)			

Signed (completing officer) Date / /

Signed (completing officer) Date / /

Signed (Head of Service) Date / /